CALIFORNIA GARDEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

San Diego Floral Association

MAIN OFFICE, POINT LOMA, CAL.

BRANCH OFFICE, 858 THIRD ST., SAN DIEGO, CAL.

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DECEMBER, 1910

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association

FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR FIVE CENTS PER COPY

Vol. 2 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER, 1910 No. 6

We grow close to the ending of the year 1910. Probably this has been the most eventful year in the history of San Diego. And there is no doubt that it has been the most eventful one for the San Diego Floral Association. Probably we do not see the immediate results from the events of the past year, but we have inaugurated and planned for greater things that are bound to bear great results.

Probably no one greater thing that will affect San Diego horticulturally has taken place than the voting of the $1,000,000 Park Improvement Bonds. And now the committee has engaged that prominent firm of Brookline, Mass., landscape architects, Messrs. Olmsted Bros., to plan our new improvements.

This selection bears significance in the fact that the committee subordinates the building part of the exhibition to the horticultural part. This spirit commends itself to the members of our society. We do not criticise the appointment of those so well fitted to plan the general outline of the improvements, but the fact must not be lost sight of by the committee that Mr. Olmsted, who was here, admits that he knows nothing of the vegetation that will thrive here, or the great possibilities of our marvelous climate.

Knowing this fact, the committee will undoubtedly engage a competent gardener to supplement the advice of Messrs. Olmsted. Some one who has lived here for years, and not only studied the plants now growing here, but also those that can be made to grow here. This advice should also be supplemented by other experts and experimenters on this coast from Santa Barbara south. No time should be lost in securing these services *immediately*. Time is precious, and in no case can this be more clearly demonstrated than in our park improvement. A palm planted this year will take a year, at any rate, to establish itself before it will make any growth, and in a few years' time plants worth a few dollars now could not be replaced for hundreds of dollars.

A nursery should be established in the park at once. Many plants may be raised from seeds or cuttings costing a few cents, that it will take dollars to buy.

It is also gratifying to note that the Mission style of architecture is to predominate, in spite of the protest of some, or at least one, of our Park Commissioners.

This also means that the tropical plants and semi-tropical plants will also predominate, to be in keeping with the architecture. This is to be commended and is along the lines always advocated by the California Garden. This style will also lend itself admirably to horticultural embellishment with its arches and pergolas. Here is where our evergreen grapes and bougainvilleas come in, and many and various other plants almost unknown in other parts of California.

In this connection we desire to call the attention of the committee to an article in another part of this maga-

zine "on what will not grow in San Diego", written by a native of the state and an expert horticulturist. Again, we repeat: *"Do it now"!* To delay means a flagrant waste of money—also inferior results.

This Won't Grow and That Won't Grow in San Diego

By O. W. HOWARD, Los Angeles

And it's all Tommyrot! During my recent visit to San Diego I took time enough to look the town over pretty carefully as regards plant life, and I feel sure I am in a position to make a few statements which to some people may seem an exaggeration of the truth. I happen to be a native of this state, however, and have spent the greater part of my life here in the interest of gardening and plant life, so I do not hesitate in saying what I believe to be the truth.

It is only within the past year that I have had the opportunity of interesting myself in San Diego and vicinity, and I must say frankly that the more I see of it the more convinced I become that San Diego county can produce a greater variety of plants in the open air than any area of the same size in the United States, if not in the world.

A thing which strikes me most forcibly, however, and the real cause of my offering this article to the California Garden, is the fact that within the few days I spent in San Diego I have come in contact with a great many people who have fine homes and gardens, and do take an interest in all they have. In visiting these people I made it a point to ask them whether they had this, that or the other plant growing in their garden, when the answer would very often be, "Oh, no, they won't grow here at all!" So I ventured the question: "Have you ever tried growing them here, and do you think you gave them a fair test?" No, they hadn't tried them, but some one had said they would not grow in San Diego, and that is all there was to it,—while in reality a great many of the plants in question had been tried in San Diego and were found to do well, while still others were condemned before they had been fairly tested under the proper treatment.

It is not in any way my desire to criticise San Diego or the people, but on the contrary I take a deep interest in these matters, and only wish if possible to put some enlightenment on the subject. Wherever a cauliflower will flourish you naturally expect to see a cabbage do fairly well in the same place, and so I have based my opinions as regards an endless variety of other plants more desirable than cabbage.

The fact of the matter is, San Diego is new, with the exception of Ramona's Home, and even that has been reconstructed to such an extent that Ramona herself would blush with pride if she could but see her home today. San Diego has been growing so rapidly and the people are so taken up with the progress the city is making (don't forget the word *City*), they have not had time to think of what is really there before them, and what the future is bound to be. So it seems

to me not altogether out of place to state a few facts relative to plant life which has been comparatively little thought of, and which figures so much in making San Diego famous the world over.

Overlooking the broad expanse of placid water the city of San Diego has a most attractive setting, where for miles the rolling hills and winding ravines border the beautiful bay, offering an endless opportunity for landscape gardening in all its branches; and that is not all,—San Diego is located in a spot where north and south hold hands, forming an equable climate, which makes it possible to grow an unlimited variety of flowering and ornamental plants.

Did you ever stop to consider that only a few years ago the ground now covered by a beautiful city was a barren waste where nothing but sage brush and cactus grew, "and even that would rather not"?

The many beautiful palms, shrubs and vines which now flourish in the open air distinguish San Diego from any other city in America. The unequalled climate, the abundance of water and the varied soil affords a regular harbor for an endless variety of rare tropical and semi-tropical plants.

It may be of interest to some people to know that there are more bougainvillea lateritia, more cocos plumosus palms and more Kentia palms growing in the open air in San Diego county than in all the rest of California combined. The same thing can be said of many other less conspicuous things, which all help to put San Diego in a class by itself.

As a matter of comparison, and for the benefit of those who do not know what the conditions in San Diego really are, it might be interesting to mention that in the town of Riverside, for example, there is not a single plant of Hibiscus of any variety flourishing in the open air, and I know of only one bougainvillea lateritia which is doing well, and that is in an unusually well protected spot out on Victoria Heights. The same thing may be said of Redlands, and even Pasadena cannot boast of much more.

There are many other similar comparisons too numerous to mention here; while on the other hand there are very few things growing in other parts of California that cannot be grown successfully in San Diego, within the county lines at least.

Yes, I know all about your hardpan, the rocks and the gravel, but isn't it surprising how things will everlastingly grow if you just start them off with a little coaxing, by adding a little top soil and some barnyard fertilizer. The cost of preparing the ground for the average garden is comparatively little when you consider the endless variety of plants that can be grown and the great satisfaction they afford.

I have noticed a good many prominent gardens where there was a scarcity of shade-loving plants such as ferns, fuchsias, cyclamen, begonia, coleus, etc. The only good reason I could see why these plants should be missing was simply because there was no shade, and not because they would not grow in San Diego. It may not go amiss here to state that shade can be provided for such plants in a very simple and artistic way; these plants can be very successfully grown under a vine-covered pergola, which can be made a very attractive feature on most any place; or better yet, in a lath-house which can be constructed very cheaply and need not be a mass of warped and twisted woodwork

with a flat caved in roof like some of the old time ones you have seen covered with cobwebs and dead leaves. A lath-house can be made in many pretty shapes, and very often a domed roof helps the appearance and gives extra height for the tall growing things. I saw no less than four lath-houses in course of construction on my recent visit to San Diego, and they were all of artistic design. It shows the people are beginning to wake up.

By the way, speaking of the people waking up, I must say that the Floral Association and the California Garden have done much valuable work in introducing new features in gardening, and in testing out many new plants, bulbs and seeds.

Such work is of the greatest possible value to the community, and should be encouraged in every way. The flower shows have also been a great benefit to the public, affording much knowledge and pleasure to all. This good work should go on, and it seems to me the city ought to take an interest in it for it is of great importance to the city in general. I can't see why it would be unreasonable to ask the city to erect an exhibition hall somewhere centrally located, and suited for all manner of shows, such as citrus fairs, poultry shows, flower shows, dog shows, cat shows, automobile shows, etc., and between times the hall could be rented occasionally for political and other meetings, so that it would not be altogether a "white elephant" on the hands of the city. So far as I know there is not a suitable place for such purposes at present, and to say the least it is much needed.

In behalf of all who took exhibits from Los Angeles and vicinity to the recent San Diego Flower Show I wish to thank the Floral Association for the way we were welcomed, and for the untiring efforts of those in charge to make things comfortable. We found the latch string on the outside, and we will be glad of a chance to pull it another time.

The Rose in December

E. BENARD

I have been through a rose garden treated as by directions given in the California Garden, to produce a late fall crop of bloom, and found quite a degree of success attending. Our latest white Frau Karl Druschki had responded particularly well. The bushes were covered with buds in all stages of development of good form and size. The foliage was clean and thrifty and there was a fair percentage of fairly long stems. Kaiserin Augusta Victoria was doing well, though the bushes had been blooming continuously all the year. General MacArthur, the best red for this locality, seemed rather indignant at the treatment and its growth lacked vigor, but that other red, G. B. Clark, was doing better than it does in the spring and had good colored, well-formed buds on nice stems. Prince of Bulgaria, the shaded shrimp pink, was looking well. Its foliage is particularly pleasing and it is certainly a rose that should be in every collection. The Cochets were well budded, but not so forward as the others named. The Cecil Bruners were speckled with

bloom, and plenty of promise of a continued crop.

In talking with the owner, I think I discovered that he did not apply fertilizer quite early enough, and then in the form of barnyard manure. If he had given nitrate three weeks before this, I am sure good results would have followed. In any event this experiment is worth trying again.

Planting roses, when possible, during December, is strongly recommended. They will then get well settled in their new quarters before the buds start pushing. Dig a hole twice as large as you think you want, plant at the same depth as before, or possibly an inch deeper, certainly not shallower, spread the roots well and firm the soil thoroughly. Do not plant when the ground is wet enough to cake. For general varieties the following have proved satisfactory in this locality:

Bush-White — Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Frau Karl Druschki.

Yellow and Yellow Tints—Sunset, Safrano, White Cochet, Perle de Godesberg, Joseph Hill.

Pink—Pink Cochet, Caroline Testout, Lady Ashton, Prince of Bulgaria, Clara Watson, Duchess de Brabant.

Reds—General MacArthur, Papa Gontier, Ulrich Bruner, G. B. Clark.

Climbers — White Lamarque, Climbing Kaiserin, Madame Alfred Carriere.

Yellow—Reve d 'Or, Safrano, William Allan Richardson and Marechal Niel.

Pink—Caroline Testout.

Red—Papa Gontier.

In the polyantha class—Cecile Bruner, both bush and climbing, and Dorothy Perkins.

In planning for a rose bed keep in mind that roses like a place to themselves, out of draughts, but not too shaded.

The Lath House

We have now come to a time of year when the lath house makes its poorest showing; nothing in it but the violets in bloom, the ferns beginning to show yellows and browns and a general air of dejection everywhere. However, it needs a watchful eye. It must be remembered that a rain that will soak the ground may do very little for a potted plant and care must be had that things in pots don't get caught in a dry state by a north wind, but watering must be done cautiously. Too much is as bad as not enough. Remove all dead leaves and fronds, keep everything cleaned up and let in the air. If you have a vacant space go into the wilds and bring in polypodiums and wild maidenhair, which the rains have started into growth, and hunt for some of the coffee fern, also. It were well, indeed, if we could remove the tops of our lath houses now and let in some more sun. The California Garden would like to see some one try a lath house with canvas top that could be rolled back. It would be easy to try and promises great things.

If the lath house were not very wide the canvas top could be made to roll on a stout pole and could be removed or put in place in a very few minutes. It is almost certain that this

THE POINSETTIA

letting in of sun and air at this time of year would give better winter effects and start the spring growth several weeks earlier. Of course, it would prevent any overhead growth, but this should not be in any case, for the lath house has for its purpose not to give complete shade, but to modify the sunlight; filter it, if you will. This is a good time to clean up and sort out all vacant pots. We have heretofore insisted on the value of a clean pot. There will be leisure for the cleaning process now; and there may not be when the pots are wanted for use. If you have tall begonias or other things requiring support, see that they have it now before the rains beat them down.

The Poinsettia

Our illustration this month shows what might be termed "The national flower of Southern California". This plant belongs to the genus Euphorbia and is named after Joel R. Poinsett, American minister to Mexico, who discovered it there in 1828. It is known in England by the name of lobster flower, or Mexican flame flower, and is known in Mexico under the name of flora de Pascua (Easter flower).

In this part of the state, at this time of the year, the poinsettia is found in profusion, but nowhere so plentifully as in San Diego. The plant is easily raised and will succeed in any protected position with little or no care. However, it will stand no frost and feels the effect of too hot a sun.

Cuttings taken in the spring from the new wood and set with one or two eyes in the soil are almost sure to take root. Also good-sized branches may be set in the ground and take root this way.

As with other plants, the poinsettia is being improved upon. We now have on the market the "double" poinsettia and the "white" poinsettia. Of course, some people will grow these varieties for the novelty, but nothing will ever displace the single red variety, now so well known, and which fills our gardens with holiday bloom during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

In order to keep the poinsettia blooms after cutting, they should be immersed for a few minutes in boiling water. This prevents the white sap from flowing out. Some growers even sear the plant itself after cutting the blooms with a match or torch.

Plenty of sunshine, a protected position, plenty of water and a liberal culture will insure success with the poinsettia.

Work in My Garden

FANNY L. RYAN

This month is a busy one in my garden. I must remove and store away my summer flowering bulbs, such as dahlias and gladiolas, as their leaves die down and decay. Perennials I must divide up and replant, larkspurs, cannas, Shasta and other daisies.

Chrysanthemums, which are now over flowering, can be taken up and

put away in an out-of-the-way corner of the garden until the time comes to set them out.

For bulbs I can now plant lilies, auratum, Harrisii, longiflorum and any of the ranunculus, sparaxis or tulips yet out of the ground.

I must keep my rose bulbs well watered if copious rains do not fall and rub outside buds on a few, leaving only one terminal and note improvement over former years.

I am going to get a dozen of Howard & Smith's wonderful larkspurs, and plant them in rich, well-prepared soil, give them care, and then next spring have flower stalks seven feet tall. Pansy stock, sweet pea, mignonette, candy-tufts, calendula, scarlet flax, scabiosa and a host of other flower seeds I have to choose from at this rainy season son favorable for sowing seeds. Sweet peas will require gentle syringing on warm days, before noon, to keep down red spider, the minute pest which feeds on the green of the leaves.

Some very fine effects may be had by planting seeds of perennial California wild flowers, in large masses, or in groups or clumps between shrubbery or trees, and in nooks and corners. Some of the most desirable are the pentstemons, especially the P. spactabiles, a tall-growing species, with long spikes of rich blue and purple flowers. P. centranthifolium, or "scarlet bugler", as it is commonly called, with its vivid scarlet flowers and glaucous green foliage and stems; the blue larkspur, the castillejas or "paint brushes", the wild columbine, the yellow lupin, the California fuchsia and the solanums.

The seeds of the perennials can be sown in pots or seed boxes, using light, well-drained soil, and covering the seed very lightly and as soon as large enough the plants can be transplanted. Or the seed may be sown in the open ground where the plants are to remain and flower, but care must be taken not to disturb the beds during the dry or dormant period, for one is apt to forget that they are there and the plants are easily destroyed.

For those who want quick results with the least possible labor and expense the annuals will always be the most popular.

For large places where there are trees, banks and slopes, hollows or open stretches of ground, the most marvellous effects can be produced in a few months by sowing the seed broadcast in these spots.

In sowing California wild flower seeds follow nature as much as possible. Wherever practicable it is best to work up the surface of the ground and pulverize with a fine rake, afterwards the seeds can be scattered broadcast. A very good time is just before a rain or even while it is raining. They require no further attention and will succeed with an average amount of rainfall without further irrigation. In dry years, of course, watering would be beneficial.

Flowers preach to us, if we will hear.

Amateur gardeners who read CALIFORNIA GARDEN may profit by the experience of the best amateur and professional gardeners in this part of the state. The query corner is always at your service when knotty problems arise.

Your friends will appreciate a holiday gift of a year's subscription to CALIFORNIA GARDEN. It will cost only fifty cents, and what other gift can you purchase for that sum which will be useful during all of 1911?

Query Corner

Q. Why is it we see so few magnolias growing in San Diego?

A. Plenty of good magnolia trees here—they do well, but few people care to have so large a tree in small gardens. Fine trees growing at K. O. Session's—some in the park and some near Fifth and Kalmia.

Q. Will fruit trees thrive on a hillside which is not too steep to retain water?

A. Yes, if the canyon doesn't form a draught from the ocean too strong for the trees.

Q. Why don't the gardeners have their names and addresses in The Garden, so people who want their services will know where to find them.

A. The same query has occurred to us and we are now arranging for a column for such names, which will be inserted for three months for $1.50, payable in advance.

Q. In preparing new ground for flowers I find it plentifully populated with a large, black worm, as well as numerous smaller ones. Are these the natural enemies of plants and flowers? If so I see trouble ahead.

A. Soil probably soggy and sour. Lime water will kill the worms and also sweeten the soil. These particular worms would probably not destroy plant life, but would indicate a condition of the soil which would be fatal to plants. Cut worms, caterpillars, etc., are destructive. Nearly all of the troublesome ones are green or greenish brown.

Remember The Garden when making out your list of Christmas presents. Fifty cents makes a present which will be useful all the year.

"Noiseless falls the foot of time that only treads on flowers."

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A Walk Through Life's Garden

The dawn is breaking. In the east a light struggles to dissipate the darkness, forerunner of that bright orb of day. The sky is rosy. We look behind trying to pierce the haze that still hangs over the scene, but we cannot look into the infinite, we can but ask ourselves, *"Whence"?*

We start onward with buoyant step. All is joy about us. Our soul is full of hope. Here beautiful flowers surround us on all sides, buds just bursting forth, radiant with color and filling the air with perfume. One plant vies with the other in being more beautiful. The grass is green and fresh, and as we tread on it gives forth an odor that fills us with life. The little brook murmurs gentle notes to the accompaniment of gay-plumed birds. All is beautiful, all is joy.

We walk along apace. The sun is now o'erhead. The plants have been getting larger, the flowers are now full blown. We are beginning to tire a little and seek to rest ourselves 'neath the spreading limbs of a tree. We go from labor to refreshment and rest ourselves by eating of the fruit with which we are surrounded. We prepare to resume our journey and now notice for the first time that there are many diverging paths all leading ahead but in many different directions. Which road shall we take.

We notice in one direction a sapling of a tree that is needing support and we try and help it. Then we note that there is so much work to do in this great garden. We cannot see its confines and we ask ourselves *"whither"?* We try to work a little here and work a little there and do what we can. Some of the trees are beginning to shed their leaves. The grass seems to become more yellow. Now we notice that all shrubs are not covered with beautiful bloom, but scattered here and there are plain herbs loved and sought for, on account of their splendid qualities.

Then we ask ourselves why some plants are put in this garden at all. But the Great Gardener knows why. He knows of virtues that we poor souls can not see.

The sun is sinking in the west. Soon all will be darkness. We sink to rest on the bosom of Mother Earth, near us we notice a tree full of beautiful blossoms. Some of them will mature into luscious fruit, while other equally beautiful buds drop to Earth, covered with glistening dew, the tears of Heaven, and turn to dust. And we ask ourselves "why?" The sun has set. The clouds that hover on the horizon are tinged with red. The zodaical light shines against a bank of gray. We try and look into the future with no avail.

The day is done, and to our question "why" there seems to come an answer, "He knows best". "His will be done."

Poultry Show to be Held January 4 to 7

The annual poultry show will be held in San Diego, January 4 to 7, but the exact location has not been decided upon. A number of the prize cups are on exhibition at the store of the San Diego Co. Poultry Assn., on Sixth St. Catalogues may be had of E. T. Creasey, 20th and M Sts. A number of especially fine ribbons will be given.

Talking About Our Friends

The San Diego Co. Poultry Association has taken space in The Garden for all of 1911.

Coolidge's Fernery, Pasadena, and the Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario, Cal., are new advertisers in The Garden. Send for their catalogues.

The Ramona Nursery, which captured a number of prizes at the recent flower show, has an advertisement in this issue. Mr. Thiene calls especial attention to his sixty-four varieties of dahlias.

Cement and steel seem destined to entirely supplant the old wooden fenceposts, and among the newer devices is one recently patented by the American Steel Post Co., of Los Angeles, which they call the Carbo Steel Post. It is highly recommended for poultry yards, etc. The company has an advertisement in this issue and announces the San Diego Hardware Co., as their local representative.

The Garden cannot too strongly urge upon its friends, and particularly the members of the Floral Association, the necessity of patronizing the business firms who advertise with us, when in need of anything in their lines. It is a great help to any merchant to know what class of advertising brings returns, and how is he to know unless the reader tells him.

When in need of garden tools, seeds, plants, trees, poultry supplies or anything else advertised in The Garden, go to or address the dealers who are helping The Garden, the Association and the city by patronizing our columns, and in making your purchase tell him you saw his advertisement in California Garden. It will be doing the merchant and this journal each a good service. Incidentally we would like to have our readers pledge themselves that they will read The Garden through from cover to cover each month. A great many tell us they do it already. Note the new business firms represented in this issue.

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One-half page 5.00
One-quarter page 2.50
One-eighth page 1.50
Copy for advertisements must be in by the 25th of each month.

December Regular Meeting

The December meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held Tuesday night, December 13th, at the residence of Mrs. L. A. Blochman, 3260 First street, corner of Thorn. The Mission Hills car will leave you at the door.

An interesting program has been arranged. In addition the Park Commissioners and the members of the building and grounds committee of the Panama-California Exposition have been invited to be present. Mr. Olmsted, the landscape architect in charge of the work of the exposition, is expected to be present and address the society on the special flower features of the exposition and Balboa Park. It is hoped that all members of the Association will attend. Do not forget that choice or rare bloom.

November Regular Meeting

The November regular meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held at the Hotel Lanier on Tuesday evening, October 8th. All the reports of the Flower Show at the U. S. Grant Hotel, were given and approved.

Mr. Robinson, Miss Rainford and Mr. Stokes, having attended the Pasadena Flower Show, spoke of what they saw there and compared it with our show.

Mr. Seiess, of the City Heights Nursery, had some beautiful chrysanthemums to exhibit, which were grown entirely without protection. He also had some specimens of double coleus, one side of the plant being of one kind and the other another.

There were several other interesting plants and flowers shown.

Some association members have not remitted for or returned the tickets which they received for the Fall Flower Show. It will aid the secretary greatly if this is attended to at once, as the tickets are charged against the persons who received them.

Members who are willing to have the Floral Association use their homes for the regular monthly meetings will please notify the secretary, so arrangements can be made for future meetings.

¶ ¶

A Holiday Invitation

¶ You are now trying to decide the annual problem in regard to Christmas gifts.

¶ We suggest, urge and request that each subscriber to California Garden make at least one of their friends a present of a year's subscription to this journal.

¶ This gift is within the reach of all and will give the greatest amount of pleasure for the money invested.

¶ The Garden is only Fifty Cents per year. Address the branch office 858 Third St., San Diego.

¶ ¶

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Fresh Stock of

POTTED FERNS

On Sale

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Special Sale of Roses

Left over from the summer stock, 25 cents each in cans. Will make a good growth by spring. Not a large assortment, but all are fine varieties. Some are the newer sorts. Also some good shrubs for November planting.

MISS K. O. SESSIONS

GROWER OF PLANTS

Take Mission Hills car on Third Street, for the Nursery. Fifteen Minutes from D St.

Coolidge's Fernery and Rare Plant Gardens

Pasadena California

MORE THAN 100 VARIETIES OF CHOICE FERNS---FEIJOA AVOCADO AND MANY RARE FRUITING AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS. *Send for Lists*

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Amateur and Professional Gardener

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